JAMES MILLS, M.A., LL.D.

A CAREER OF EMINENT SERVICE
IN EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE

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A
CAREER OF EMINENT SERVICE

IN EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE

In Spite of a Serious Handicap and Many Discouraging Circumstances

A Few Facts Gleaned from the Life and Career of

JAMES MILLS, M.A., LL.D.

Obtained with Much Difficulty, Vouched for, and Put Together a Short Time Ago by a Student of Dr. Mills's when he was Headmaster of Brantford Collegiate Institute, in the Hope that they may Stir Up, Stimulate, and Encourage some of our Many Young Men who are Far from Making the Most of their Time and Opportunities

OCTOBER, 1917

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EARLY LIFE

DOCTOR MILLS'S parents, John Mills and Ann Stinson, were both born in the County of Fermanagh, Province of Ulster, Ireland, and he himself was born on the 24th of November, 1840, near Bond Head, in the County of Simcoe, Ontario, and was baptized by Archdeacon Osler, the father of the Osler family so distinguished in this country.

While the Doctor was a child, his father moved east to the township of Cartwright, in the County of Durham, and bought a bush farm near the village of Blackstock (then known as Tooley's Corner), nearly twenty miles north of Bowmanville. They remained there for about twelve years, after which they returned to the County of Simcoe, and rented a farm in the old neighborhood, a short distance south of Bond Head.

Being the eldest of ten children, the Doctor had to work hard on the farm, late and early, and got very little schooling till he was twenty years of age, when he lost his right arm in a threshing-machine. During the last eight years of this

period of his life he was in constant association with two or three extremely illiterate hired men on the farm, and from them he says he learned to speak atrociously bad English—an alleged misfortune and great handicap ever since.

His right arm gone, he had to decide for the future, whether to stay where and as he was or make a determined effort to get an education, in spite of his having to make so late a start. The outlook was not at all bright; but both his parents encouraged him, and his father generously offered to pay the necessary expense of such an education as he might be able to get; so he entered the local public school and got his first lesson in English grammar at twenty-one years of age.

At the Grammar School

After two years in the public school, he went to the Bradford Grammar School and studied to the best of his ability for two years under John Campbell, M.A. His recollection is that Mr. Campbell was kindly sympathetic and scarcely ever failed to inspire his students with a desire to make the most of their opportunities and especially to gain, if possible, a thorough mastery of the English language—to learn how to speak and write clear, correct, strong, rhythmic English;

punctuate correctly; and write a neat and easily legible hand—*to learn,* Doctor Mills often repeated in his lectures,—a thing which, he truthfully alleged, the great majority of our Canadian students and a large proportion of our university graduates never do. Though fifty-six years ago, the Doctor says he remembers very well how Mr. Campbell introduced the subject of English grammar to his class. He had a piece of rather poor English beautifully written on a blackboard, took a long pointer, and told the class that the object of studying English grammar was to learn how to convey our thoughts clearly and correctly to other people—to speak and write the English language clearly and correctly; and that it all consisted of two things,—the choice and the arrangement of words. He asked us to look carefully over the passage on the board and see whether, in our opinion, any improvement could be made in the words used by the writer. He got a number of suggestions, and the attention of the class was at once called to the importance of choosing *the right words* in speaking and writing. Then their attention was called to *the arrangement of the words* in the passage—with like result; and he showed by many examples that the right words might be used and yet the

arrangement be such as to suggest a wrong or absurd meaning; for instance, "As I was driving along the road I saw a man digging a well with a Roman nose."

Regularly, during each term of the school, the last hour on Friday (three to four) was devoted to *impromptu composition.* Every student in the school, senior and junior alike, had to meet in the assembly-room, with a slate, clean and ready for use; and at the appointed time Mr. Campbell, the headmaster, announced a subject with which most, if not all, those in the room were supposed to be more or less familiar, and gave them thirty minutes to write a composition thereon. The last thirty minutes of the hour was devoted to the reading of the compositions aloud, each in the presence of all the rest; and many were often surprised at the excellence of the compositions which some of the senior students read from week to week. The general result was that most of Mr. Campbell's students acquired something of a literary taste and were inspired with a strong desire to excel in the use of their mother tongue.

At the University

After two years—much too short a time—at the Grammar School, he entered Victoria Uni-

versity, Cobourg; and, being inadequately prepared for a university course, he had to work very hard (regularly fifteen hours a day) during the first year, with the result that he had a serious attack of illness just before the May examinations and had to be taken home, where at first he seemed to improve, but subsequently had a very serious relapse and was confined to bed, under the care of a physician, for about six months; so he lost his first year in the university, but he did a good deal of general reading during the time he was laid aside—Bacon, Macaulay, Carlyle, and some poetry.

After his return to the university, he had scarcely got settled down to work when he was again knocked out by a severe attack of intermittent fever, which kept him in bed for about six weeks; and in the second year of his course he took the measles and was thereby debarred from lectures for nearly five weeks. All went well in the third year; but when he had got a little more than half through the fourth year, he was much reduced in strength, badly run down, and said to look like a walking skeleton, doing his prescribed university work from day to day, and struggling all the while to learn some of the things which other undergraduates had learned

at school or by reading before they were twenty-one years of age, until at length he took a bad cold, which he did not succeed in throwing off, and thinking he was in for consumption, he at last gave up and went out to spend a short time with a friend north of Cobourg, before going home to die; and, after he had been a few weeks resting with his friend in the country, he was surprised to find that his cold had gone; so he at once returned to the university, passed the final examinations, and was awarded the gold medal as *primus in artibus,* first in general proficiency in the work of the four years. He thought he had no chance for first place among a number of strong men who had done good work throughout the course; and he does not know how he did it, for he maintains that he has always had a bad memory, and hence has had to work much harder than others to get through with daily tasks and have a little spare time for general reading, etc. He thinks he may say that he was helped by a motto bearing on *the character of his work.* Long ago he observed that many young men were not making the most of their opportunities—that they were doing inferior work, being apparently satisfied with "well enough"; so he adopted a motto of his own making, *Non satis Bene, sed*

quam optime, "Not well enough, but in the best manner possible"; and ever since that time he has, generally speaking, done his best according to *his* ability, education, and opportunities.

After Graduation in 1868

One year in charge of the County Academy in Stanstead Village, Que.

Three and one-half years teaching Latin and Greek, with some English and Algebra, in Cobourg Collegiate Institute.

Six and one-half years Headmaster of Brantford High School and Collegiate Institute, Brantford, Ont.

Twenty-five years President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.

Ten years a member of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, till ruled out by the seventy-five-year age limit.

Fortunate in one thing, viz., that he never has had to apply for a job, as every position he has ever held was voluntarily offered to him without application or solicitation, direct or indirect, by him or at his suggestion. He says it just happened so, adding that he knows many first-class men who have had to apply for positions.

At Brantford

When he went to Brantford he found the High School very much run down, with one man and a young lady, neither of them a university graduate, to assist the principal, who was then going to take a position in St. John's College, Winnipeg. The school was expected to do ordinary high school work and to prepare students for the matriculation examinations, pass and honor, to secure admission to the universities of the Dominion, especially the University of Toronto; so he had to work very hard, late and early, for some time, having to teach five languages—Latin, Greek, English, French, and German—until, with the help of his two assistants, he made the attendance of students too large for the school building, with the result that a large new building was erected, the school was made a Collegiate Institute, and the Board appointed additional teachers from time to time to assist in handling the increasing number of students—till in 1879 the Hon. A. S. Hardy, a member of the Collegiate Institute Board, induced the Doctor to resign his position in Brantford (after he had converted an insignificant High School into a strong, largely attended, and very successful Collegiate Insti-

tute) to become President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, in which position he served with wonderful fidelity and success for twenty-five years.

Work at Guelph

A few things may be said about this well and widely-known Guelph institution. When Doctor Mills went to Guelph in 1879 he found the College a football between the two political parties. Everything done there, right or wrong, was attacked or ridiculed by one party and defended by the other; and the institution was in very bad odor among the farmers of Ontario, looked upon as a place where a few men on stilts were trying to teach book-farming. It was very discouraging for some time, but at length the President succeeded in convincing the people of the province that there were no politics in the Ontario Agricultural College—none in the class-room, none in the general management, none in dealings with business men, none in the selection of employees or the appointment of officers, excepting matrons and college physicians; and finally the institution gained the confidence and support of both Conservatives and Liberals.

A Residential Institution

The College is a residential institution; the students reside and board in the College; and after twenty-five years' experience President Mills has no hesitation in expressing the opinion that a college residence, under strong and vigilant but inconspicuous oversight, is a very important factor in education; but if neglected or loosely managed, especially if in or near a large town or city, it is likely to become a curse and a pestilent blight in the country—a place where young men form habits of idleness, learn to indulge in the use of strong drink, and are sometimes in danger of being led into the most degrading and ruinous vice.

Under the Ontario Government, the President was held strictly to account for everything in the college residence—the board, the cooking, the care of the students' rooms, the prevention of noise, with attention to study in prescribed hours, and the conduct of the students at all times, night and day, Sundays and week days alike.

Following the practice of his predecessor, President Mills admitted to the College from year to year a considerable number of applicants from

Great Britain and Ireland—sons of clergymen, army officers, lawyers, doctors, etc.—young men who had never done any kind of manual labor. They had come to this country with the idea that the position of a farmer in Canada was similar to that of the country squire in England. All went well for a short time; but when put frequently to clean stables, feed cattle and hogs, gather small stones off the college fields, and pick potatoes when their fingers were cold, they changed their minds—most of them were disappointed and gave up their intention of becoming farmers; but they had paid their fees for a year, and quite a few of them decided to have a good time while they remained at the College. The result was that the President sometimes had a good deal of trouble in the residence; and, having for a length of time taught nearly as much as any of his professors—mostly English, economics, and natural history; looked after the boarding house; and assumed direct personal responsibility for all purchases and for the monthly accounts of all expenditures in the five departments of the institution, down to the last five-cent piece—he was, for the first fourteen or fifteen years after he went to Guelph, regularly

in his office or about the College halls to ten-thirty or eleven o'clock at night.

Finally he changed the terms of admission to the College, making it necessary for every applicant to present a properly signed and satisfactory certificate of his having spent at least one year at practical work on a Canadian farm. Some Old Country boys still went to the College, but only those who knew what farming in Canada meant and had resolved to do honest work. After that he had very little trouble in the residence.

Work at the College

President Mills's work at the College was, he says, a long and severe struggle. From beginning to end he was much cramped and held back by the lack of necessary funds; and whatever success he had, much or little, was, he maintains, largely due to a constant effort to get good, strong, progressive workers around him, encourage them to the best that was in them, and give them full and undivided credit for all they did. The motto which he adopted for the College was *progress,* in Latin form, *nulla dies sine linea,* no day without a line.

Works of Supererogation

College Extension and Other Ventures

President Mills was not long at Guelph till he saw the absolute necessity of devising some means of getting into closer touch with the farmers of the Province; the interests of the College and of the farming community both demanded some move to get rid of the prejudices and misunderstandings which had prevailed up to that time; so he asked the Hon. A. M. Ross, Commissioner of Agriculture, for a grant of three hundred dollars to pay the travelling expenses of two deputations to go out from the College during the Christmas vacation. The application was granted; and, at the President's suggestion, the Government passed and announced a regulation that the farmers of any county in Ontario could organize an Institute by getting fifty members, paying twenty-five cents each per year, and obtaining from their County Council a grant of twenty-five dollars a year towards their annual expenses; and that, under these conditions, the Government would give them twenty-five dollars a year and would send them, from or through the College at Guelph, a delegation of speakers, free of expense, to assist at their winter meeting—all

under the control and direction of the President of the College. Thus originated

The Farmers' Institutes of Ontario.—They began on a small scale; but the number increased very rapidly; and, in correspondence with the secretaries throughout the Province, the President arranged for the meetings and selected the delegations of speakers from time to time for twelve years. It is scarcely necessary to add that these Institutes have been a great blessing to both the farmers and the College, and that they have spread from Guelph to nearly all the other provinces of the Dominion.

Farmers' Excursions.—The President, seeing the need, encouraged the Institutes to run excursions to the College as often as possible in the month of June, a comparatively slack season for farmers, with the result that, for a considerable length of time, they had at the College from twenty to thirty thousand people a year, chiefly farmers and their families; and during the month the whole staff of the institution—of the Farm, Dairy, Horticultural, and Experimental Departments, including the two Museums, Experimental and General—were on hand to welcome the visitors, showing them and explaining to them what

the different departments were doing and trying to do, in addition to the lectures and demonstrations in the College.

The excursionists usually arrived at the College between 10 and 11 a.m., and they could not go to Guelph, about a mile distant from the College, for dinner without wasting the best part of the day; so the Government authorized the President to give them a free lunch, costing about six cents apiece, at the College. The food—good ham sandwiches, fresh soda biscuits, and cheese, with plenty of hot tea—was prepared and taken to the College Gymnasium by the regular college help (no extra help being employed); and each gymnasium full—over nine hundred in number, seated in rows running towards the dais at one end, with passages between—selected twenty or more of their young men to pass the food and tea as directed by the President from the dais. In this way nine hundred to nine hundred and fifty got all they wanted in about fifteen minutes. Then the waiters went forward to the dais to help themselves out of baskets and teapots placed within their reach; and while they were eating, the President addressed the people, telling them where to go on leaving the gymnasium and what they might expect to see and hear in the different

departments. In the occasional absence of the President, a leading member of the staff always took his place.

Through the Farmers' Institutes and these annual excursions the farmers and others became acquainted with the members of the College staff and learned what the College was doing and trying to do for the promotion of agriculture and the benefit of all classes of our people. In this way knowledge was disseminated, prejudice was removed, and the College won the confidence and support of the farming community.

Travelling Dairies.—For a long time the butter served in country, village, and town hotels, and elsewhere throughout Ontario, was bad—in many instances rancid and unfit for table use; so, in consultation with the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for the Province, the President of the College equipped two travelling dairies, each with a span of horses, a good spring waggon, a tarpaulin, and a simple outfit for butter-making, such as farmers' wives generally used. In correspondence with the secretaries of the Farmers' Institutes, the President decided where meetings in each county should be held and who could be counted on to supply the cream for churning at each meeting. He wrote each

man selected to supply cream, instructing him how to treat the cream and requesting him to be sure and have it in good condition for churning at the time and place announced. He also arranged to have the meetings properly advertised, and in due course sent out the two teams, to go from county to county according to the programme—a capable dairyman of experience and a first-class butter-maker in charge of each, the latter to churn the cream and work the butter in presence of the people, and the former to explain to them how the work should be done, giving reasons for every statement made.

This work was continued till the Province was pretty well covered. The results were very satisfactory, both to the farmers and to other users of butter all over Ontario; and the work soon extended from Guelph to the Maritime Provinces and elsewhere throughout the Dominion.

Donated Buildings and Equipment

Massey Hall and Library.—One day President Mills happened to meet Walter Massey in a street car in Toronto. Mr. Massey asked him how they were getting on at Guelph; and he answered, "Fairly well, but greatly in need of additional buildings and equipment—much more than I

can get from the Legislature," adding that, as the Massey family had made a considerable sum of money in their dealings with the farming community, he did not know but they might be disposed to do something for them at the College, say, give them one of the buildings they needed. He smiled and shrugged his shoulders—that was all; and, strange to say, about three months later the President again met Mr. Massey in a street car, and, sitting down beside him, Mr. Massey said, "You may be surprised to learn that we have been thinking over the suggestion you made to me on a former occasion. There is a residue in my father's will which we are at liberty to divide among ourselves—my brother Chester, my sister, and myself—or give to some worthy object; and we have decided to make a contribution of, say, twenty thousand dollars towards the erection of a building at your College." The President immediately submitted a list of half a dozen buildings, from which Mr. Massey chose the Hall and Library; and the President asked leave to draw and send to him a plan of the building he wanted. It was not long till the President submitted the plan to Mr. Massey in his own house in Toronto. Mr. Massey seemed pleased with the outline and asked permission to have his archi-

tect draw the elevation and estimate the cost. The architectural effect of the elevation was good and the building was what was needed, but the cost, as reported by the architect, would be about forty thousand dollars. This was a decided set-back; but about two weeks later Mr. Massey telegraphed the President to go down to his office, which he did in haste; and after a short conversation with Mr. Massey and his brother, they informed him that they had finally decided to assume the larger expenditure, and that he might go on with the building at once. At last, when the building was completed, after the lamented death of Mr. Walter Massey, the question of furnishing arose. The President consulted Mr. Chester Massey as to whether he (the President) should apply to the Government for the five thousand dollars needed, and Mr. Massey's reply was "No"—that the building should be properly furnished, and the Massey family would pay the bill.

So ended this important incident—I say *important,* because while many donations had previously been made for buildings, etc., in connection with denominational institutions, this was, I think, the first of much importance which was made to a *Government* institution in this country; and, in addition to the forty-five thou-

sand dollar gift, Mr. Walter Massey left in his will a bequest of five thousand dollars to be used as loans to help poor students at the College.

Macdonald Institute.—Sir W. C. Macdonald, of Montreal, had been a friend of President Mills's for a number of years; and having succeeded with the Massey family, the Doctor decided to see what he could do in another direction. Being anxious to have a Household Science Department established in connection with the College, and not having much hope of being able to get the necessary money from the Government, he noticed that Dr. J. W. Robertson, formerly one of the Guelph professors, was spending a good deal of Sir William's money in establishing Manual Training and Consolidated Public Schools in the different provinces of the Dominion, and he (the President) then ventured to write as tactful a letter as he could to Sir William, setting out their needs at the College and asking him whether he could and might possibly be disposed to do something to assist him in accomplishing the object he then had specially in view. Sir William wrote a friendly reply saying that, inasmuch as he was making large contributions to McGill University and had several other pro-

jects in hand, he did not feel at liberty to undertake anything more at that time. This was an unexpected disappointment; so the President sent for Mrs. John Hoodless, of Hamilton, the pioneer of Household Science in this country. He talked matters over with her about the impossibility of accomplishing much in the way of helping and elevating the farming community, economically or socially, so long as the *farm homes* were overlooked or neglected; and he asked her to go to Montreal at his expense, incidentally meet Sir William Macdonald, and do what she could. At the same time he wrote to Doctor Robertson, asking him to put in a good word for a Department of Household Science at Guelph; and soon after these preliminary steps Mrs. Hoodless reported that she had met Sir William and had honestly and heartily congratulated him on the work he was doing for manual training and a better education in the public schools of the country, and especially on his announced intention of doing something worth while for agriculture; that, from sincere conviction, she had endeavored to convince him that the first and most important step in his efforts to assist the farming community would be to reach the farm homes; and that, in her opinion, the best

way would be to establish a School of Household Science, say, in connection with the Agricultural College at Guelph. So far, so good; and shortly afterwards the President received from Doctor Robertson a note saying that Sir William Macdonald had intimated his willingness to do what might be reasonably necessary for the establishment of a Department of Household Science in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, on condition that the Ontario Government would formally and specifically agree to support and efficiently maintain the department as other departments at the College might be maintained from year to year; and Doctor Robertson, representing Sir William, waited on the Premier of Ontario and obtained the desired agreement. Thus, through the zeal and good judgment of Mrs. John Hoodless, with the ability and kind offices of Dr. James W. Robertson, the President accomplished in this matter what he had failed to accomplish alone. Then Doctor Robertson and the President, having met in the Rossin House, Toronto, made hasty sketches of two buildings, and decided to ask Sir William for $125,000, the sum which seemed to them likely to be required for the proposed work at Guelph, with the result that two days

thereafter the President received from Sir William Macdonald a short letter enclosing a chequebook and informing Doctor Mills that he had placed $125,000 to his credit in the Bank of Montreal at Guelph. He said he would not give the money to the Government, as he had no faith in governments and they were constantly changing, adding the words, "I know you; and I expect you to see that the money is wisely and economically spent, that the buildings and equipment in question will be commodious and adequate for the purpose aimed at, and that all receipts and vouchers are kept for future reference," and closing with the suggestion that he (Doctor Mills) go with a good architect to the United States and get "pointers." So he took G. M. Miller, of Toronto, architect of the Massey Hall and Library, and visited Philadelphia, Boston, New York, and two or three other U.S. cities; and, on their return, the Doctor drew in pencil two buildings such as he wanted—splendid buildings; and when Mr. Miller had sketched the elevation and figured out the cost, he said it would be about $250,000—twice the amount they had asked for. So he had to try again; and he worked on the job till he had sketched the seventh plan of the buildings, and finally decided that he could

not get what was required for the money at his disposal. Then he went with Mr. Miller to Montreal, submitted their final plan to Sir William, and explained to him their inability to get what seemed necessary without some addition to the money available. He asked how much more would be needed; Mr. Miller said $50,000, and Sir William replied, "All right, go ahead"; and on the day following their interview $50,000 more was placed to Dr. Mills's credit at Guelph.

When the plans and specifications were completed and the contract let, Doctor Mills, as those who were at the College know, virtually assumed the position of clerk of works and looked closely after everything that was done, from the breaking of the sod till the buildings were up and furnished, pretty much as they are to-day; and, owing to some changes which he had made in the electric wiring, the plumbing, etc., he was $7,000 behind when the buildings were ready for occupation. He did not like to apply to Sir William again; so he wrote to his friend, Doctor Robertson, asking for advice as to what he should do; and Doctor Robertson, going to Montreal immediately thereafter to see Sir William on business, showed him Doctor Mills's letter on Friday, and on the following Monday the manager of the

Bank of Montreal notified Doctor Mills that Sir William Macdonald had placed to his credit an additional sum of $7,500. Could anything have been more noble and generous?

The buildings and furnishings cost a little over $192,000. Like the Massey Hall and Library, they were handed over to the Province free of encumbrance; and no doubt the members of the Government were pleased to have such large and expensive additions, all furnished, complete, and free of charge, made to an institution for which they were responsible to the people of Ontario.*

More Than a Canadian Reputation

It should not be forgotten that the Ontario Agricultural College gradually gained a good deal more than a Canadian reputation. No other agricultural institution was more warmly commended or more frequently recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, U.S.A. None was better or more favorably known in Great Britain and Ireland. The late Earl Grey,

* The three splendid buildings handed over to the Province by Doctor Mills—Massey Hall and Library, Macdonald Institute, and Macdonald Hall, with the furnishings and equipment therein—are such that it is doubtful whether the Government could, at any time since, have duplicated them for $500,000—half a million dollars.

after his first visit to Guelph, said, regarding the College, that he had never before, at home or abroad, in Europe or America, seen so happy a combination of theory and practice—a good, up-to-date education with genuine, practical work in all the departments of the institution. The Government of the Argentine Republic sent seven or eight young men to the College and paid all their expenses for three or four years; and, because of the reports sent home by these young men, others came at their own expense, with the result that for four or five years before Doctor Mills left for Ottawa he had an average of about twenty-five Argentine students.

Progress in Agriculture

It can be correctly and fairly stated that Doctor Mills undoubtedly laid at Guelph the foundation of agricultural development and progress throughout the Dominion. Much agricultural progress has been made in Canada in the last twenty-five years; but nearly everything worth while that has been undertaken by the Dominion, or the different Provinces, or any of them, in the way of agricultural education or experimentation (excepting the very valuable grants in money now made annually by the Dom-

inion Government to the Provinces through the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion) was first done at Guelph—Agricultural Colleges, Departments of Agriculture with Deans of Agriculture in Universities, Dairy Schools, Experiment Stations, and the actual work of experimenting on various lines, such as testing varieties of crops; improving varieties; introducing new varieties; different kinds and quantities of fertilizers; seeds and seeding—kinds of seed (large or small, plump or shrunken) and quantities; dates of seeding; the same of planting; the growing of mixtures of crops, such as oats and peas, and oats, peas, and barley; the thinning and cultivation of root crops, etc.

Macdonald College, great and important as it is, was closely copied after Guelph; and the same may be said of every other Agricultural College, College of Agriculture, Dairy School, Experiment Station, and Experimental Farm, in the Dominion; and such Agricultural High Schools as have been established in Alberta were strongly recommended, and brought to the attention of the Ontario Government, by Doctor Mills in his earliest College reports.

Further, it appears that the Principal, Presi-

dent, or Dean of nearly every Agricultural College and College of Agriculture in the Dominion is one of President Mills's students: Principal Cumming, of the College of Agriculture, Truro, Nova Scotia; Principal Harrison, of Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.; President Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.; President Reynolds (for years a professor at Guelph), of the College of Agriculture, Winnipeg, Man.; Dean Rutherford, of the College of Agriculture, in connection with the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.; Dean Howes, of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.; Dean Klink, of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.; and Director Grisdale, of the Dominion Experimental Farms—all, with one exception, were at one time students under Doctor Mills at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

General Observations

As these notes are not in any sense a biography, nothing is said in them about the general character of Doctor Mills's work as a teacher, a disciplinarian, an organizer, and an executive officer; so I may say, in a word, that in these respects it has always been spoken of as very

thorough, strikingly efficient, and in every respect first-class; and I concur in the general verdict.

As an evidence of Doctor Mills's thoroughness and the exactness of his knowledge, I happen to know that he hardly ever sat down to read, write a letter of any account, prepare a lesson for teaching, arrange notes for a lecture or address, or write a composition, without *six dictionaries within his reach*—a good small English dictionary on his table or desk, for ready reference; a large English dictionary nearby, for use when the smaller one did not serve his purpose; and good Latin, Greek, French, and German dictionaries in the same den, study, or library, for dealing with words from any of the languages represented by these four dictionaries—not forgetting a convenient biographical dictionary, a gazetteer, and a dictionary of "phrase and fable."

Doctor Mills's influence upon his many, many students in both High School and Agricultural College work was always of the highest and most praiseworthy type.

Having been engaged in teaching for thirty-six years, and employed in the Civil Service from 1879 to 1917, he has scrupulously avoided taking any part in politics.

Things Which Specially Impressed Me

First, the will power and earnest working force of Doctor Mills. He often used in our presence such expressions as the following: Control your circumstances, whatever they may be; overcome your difficulties; shut your teeth and go ahead; do something—make a spoon or spoil a horn; be men who get things done, promptly and well—not men who come with excuses for failure.

Second, his sound common sense, executive ability, patient industry, everlasting perseverance, and unsurpassed ability as a teacher of language, especially English, Latin, and Greek.

Third, the fact that he studiously refrained from ever saying or doing anything to advertise himself or his work, having always been a silent, unobtrusive worker.

In my last short interview with Doctor Mills, I was pleased to take note of his statement that, under Doctor Creelman, his successor at Guelph, the College is still doing good work,—in most of the departments, better work and more of it than it ever did in the past.